

NEWS – Statewide Law Enforcement

For Immediate Release

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For more information: NDDOT Communications (701) 328-4559
or contact local law enforcement (contact information can be provided on request.)

Extra DUI Patrols Will Occur in March

Statewide – In the month when colleges go on spring break, beer goes green and both the calendar and the clock show signs of daylight—perhaps it’s no surprise there’s a buzz in the air. The message from law enforcement is to eliminate one buzz and that’s if you plan to drive after drinking. *Buzzed Driving is Drunk Driving*, and city, county, and state patrols will be out in full force to find and arrest impaired drivers during the month of March, and especially during the period between March 13 to 18, around St. Patrick's Day.

Last year, during this same time period, North Dakota saw two fatal crashes and 17 alcohol-related crashes.

Law enforcement agencies show St. Patrick’s Day is a high-risk period for crashes involving alcohol. More than half (55 percent) of drivers in crashes that killed people in the U.S. between midnight and 5:59 a.m. on March 18, 2013, had a BAC of .08 or higher.

“We’re asking you not to risk a DUI, but we’re also urging the public to help prevent alcohol-related deaths—they don’t have to happen,” said Lt. Tom Iverson, safety education officer for the North Dakota Highway Patrol.

Law enforcement agencies and the North Dakota Department of Transportation advise motorists to take care coming home from their St. Patrick’s Day festivities and keep these safety tips in mind:

- If you will be drinking, plan ahead for a sober driver or a safe alternative such as staying overnight;
- Keep your friends and family from driving impaired; take their keys or offer to be their designated driver and offer them a safe ride home.
- Support law enforcement by calling 9-1-1 to report an impaired driver. You could save a life.

Funding for high-intensity impaired driving enforcement is provided by the North Dakota Department of Transportation. Strict enforcement of traffic laws is one of several strategic partnerships aimed at eliminating preventable motor vehicle crashes in North Dakota. Learn more about the efforts to reduce roadway deaths and serious injuries at www.codefortheroad.com.

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